



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q61627

Yoshiro YAMAZAKI

Appln. No.: 09/728,930

Group Art Unit: 2625

Confirmation No.: 2826

Examiner: Heather D. Gibbs

Filed: December 4, 2000

For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS AND METHOD

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

ATTN: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REMARKS

Applicants offer the following comments in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability dated September 22, 2006. The Reasons for Allowance merely loosely paraphrase independent claim 1, and therefore do not accurately restate the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that this case is allowed at least because the prior art does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the allowed claims.

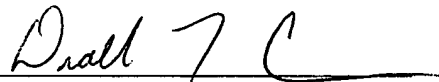
Patent Office personnel are requested to note that the present submission does not adversely affect the patent term adjustment accrued by the Applicant to date. As emphasized in the "Clarification of 37 C.F.R. §1.704(c)(10) – Reduction of Patent Term Adjustment for Certain Types of Papers Filed After a Notice of Allowance Has Been Mailed," 1247OG111 (6/26/01), "a

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response to the examiner's reasons for allowance" is an example of a paper that does "not cause substantial interference and delay in the patent issue process" and is "not considered a 'failure to engage in reasonable efforts' to conclude processing or examination of the application."

Therefore, the Applicant remains entitled to the full patent term adjustment set forth on page 3 of the Notice of Allowance dated September 22, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 21, 2006